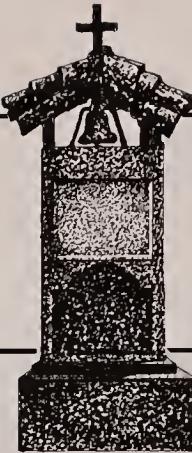


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IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Greetings Friends & Neighbors! ¡Bienvenidos! Mabuhay! BON GIORNO!

JULY 1996

More Blocks Ready for Neighborhood Watch Meetings

The 300 Block of College is ready to schedule its first neighborhood watch meeting, reports Block Captain Graham Beaumont. Watch for upcoming information regarding time/place. Meanwhile, Agnon Avenue had its first meeting with S.A.F.E. representative Barbara Lynn. At the meeting neighbors had a chance to meet each other, learn about the many free classes S.A.F.E offers and receive lots of pamphlets featuring information on home and personal safety, emergency numbers and more. While there are a few introductory meetings necessary to cement the organization of the neighborhood watch program, the heart of the program is not going to meetings, it's the act of each neighbor simply paying attention to what's going on in the neighborhood and calling a neighbor or the police if they see something that's not right. It may sound too good to be true but this simple act of watching is a major crime deterrent and takes very little effort. St. Mary's Park still needs block captains for Justin, Genebern and Murray. Captains are responsible for gathering names and phone numbers from 12-15 households on their block. Please call Graham Beaumont if you can volunteer to be block captain. simple step by step instructions will be provided.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

One day back in the early 70's, a Stanford sociology professor parked a car on a Palo Alto street and left it unattended for several days. He returned to find it untouched. He then broke a window in the car and went away. The next day, the car had been severely vandalized. He concluded that the criminal mind seeks to exploit an unstable situation. This social experiment has come to be called the "Broken Window Phenomenon." For broken windows you can substitute graffiti, a neglected yard, unpainted wood, junk cars, garbage or any other signs of disorder. These send a message that the community has no standards.

As I drive through the park it is a delight to see so many freshly painted homes and tended yards. It is remarkable that St. Mary's Park retains an attractive pristine appearance. One reason is the self containment of the 280 or so homes set in a "bell" pattern. Another reason are the six grassy islands perhaps especially the ones dividing College which we all see daily. These islands have, for many years, been trimmed and watered by a succession of volunteers. At present, Jeff Milla and his son Brendon maintain College and cut the Benton and Justin Island. Ethan Lucas, Eve Aylward and Mary Hood take care of the trees and plants on Benton which looks to me like a small beautiful park in itself. Before these people there was Ray Holman who maintained the islands for 10 years. Ray still lives on Justin.



您好

NEXT SMPIC MEETING

**July 9 @ 7:30 pm
(see agenda next page)**

"The best way to get a good idea is to get a lot of ideas."

Linus Pauling

After Ray came Bill Brady who passed away this last year. There seems always to be someone to step into the breach and do the job. Our collective salutes and thanks to these marvellous people.

There must be other park residents who feel that spark of enthusiasm for community service. Please come to our monthly meetings and participate in whatever way you wish.

At our last meeting Tom Ray, a resident of the 200 block of College reported that there is a consistent problem with garbage blowing onto the islands and into people's yards from the laundry mat and the MUNI stop. A motion was put forth and passed to write letters to Muni and the laundry mat owner asking for their assistance in keeping the trash under control. It was also proposed and passed that an annual operating budget be created for SMPIC so that we can better plan for future events and expenditures. And, it was proposed that SMPIC begin to organize bowling and softball teams. Several people attending the meeting signed up. Jonna Ramey is in charge of bowling, and a volunteer is needed to organize softball.

Drought Tolerant Alternatives to Planting Lawn

An interview with Odin Zackman, San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners

Drought is a fact of life in California and for those who are concerned about replanting a traditional lawn, which requires lots of water, here are some ideas for creating a beautiful drought-tolerant yard.

"First of all," says Odin Zackman of the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners, "people have to realize that 'drought-tolerant' doesn't mean that you never have to water. But drought-tolerant plants, once they're established, need very little water."

Ground Covers

There are many varieties of ground covers that can provide eye-pleasing colors as well as greenery. Here are some plants that do well even in poor soil conditions. **Gazania** produces grassy blade-like leaves ranging in color from gray green to dark green with a daisy-like yellow or orange flower that lays close to the ground. It blooms April through the end of Summer.

Ceanothus (California wild lilac) has dark green teaspoon-size leaves that creep along the ground. The plant also produces lilac like blooms. There are many varieties of Ceanothus so make sure you get the creeping kind if you want to use it for a ground cover. **Seaside daisy** also does well in our climate and comes in colors ranging from white with a yellow center to a pinkish color.



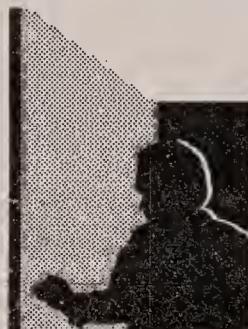
If you want to add color as well as a lovely scent to your yard, try these good smelling ground covers. (Note: Gophers tend to not like aromatic plants). **Dwarf Rosemary** a creeping herb with dark green leaves and lavender colored flowers. **Coconut or lemon thyme**, both creeping varieties that produce delicate pinkblooms. **Camomile**, an herb used for teas that produces a small yellow flower.

There are also a variety of ornamental grasses that are very beautiful. Two of Zackman's favorites include **Blue Oat Grass** and **Pennisetum**, commonly called **Korean Fountain Grass, Rubrum variety**. These grasses tend to grow in sprays and add texture and color to your garden.

"**Alyssum** is also good to plant in your garden" says Zackman, "because it attracts beneficial insects that are good for other plants."

Larger Plants

Here are a few suggestions for drought tolerant blooming perennial plants: **Mexican sage** (purple), **Penstemon** (tube like flowers in purple, red, & pink), **English or French lavender** (purple), **Yarrow** (yellow or red), **Fortnight lily** (white or yellow), **Rock Rose** (white or pink), **Nicotiana** (flowering tobacco, red, pink, yellow, white), and **Red Hot Pokers** (yellow/orange). These plants will provide pleasing, colorful landscaping with minimal water and upkeep required.



CRIME WATCH UPDATE

The crime statistics provided by the Ingleside Police Station look very good this month for the St. Mary's Park Residential area comprising the six streets in the bell. The report shows the following: an arrest in the Park for possession of marijuana, a auto stolen at Justin and Murray which was later recovered, and, a trailer stolen on the 100 block of Murray.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REALLY WORKS

A neighbor's vehicle on Agnon accidentally rolled crossways into the street, in the middle of the night. Thanks to an observant neighbor, and the fact that the block had organized a Neighborhood Watch, the neighbor alerted police who were able to contact the vehicle's owner on Agnon. Another incident occurred when a resident on College spotted his neighbor's garage door open. He was able to call his neighbor before anything was stolen from the garage. Watching neighborhood activity, knowing your neighbors and having a way to contact them is the heart of the Neighborhood Watch Program. If your block still doesn't have a program, come to the meeting and learn how to get organized.

Agenda for Upcoming Meeting July 9 @ 7:30 pm

1. Neighborhood Watch Volunteers
2. Fall Family Picnic
3. Discuss Proposed Stop Signs @ Agnon & Crescent
Justin & College
Benton & Genebern
4. Follow-up on SMPIC Budget
Litter on 200 Block of College
Sports Teams
5. Brainstorm to increase member participation, plan for future, etc.

SPOTLIGHT ON PARK BELL ADVERTISERS

Glen Park Hardware



In the Summer of 1978 Harold Tauber's teaching job at Wilson High School came to an end. He and his wife Suzy decided to take this opportunity to make a career change. In the Fall

of 1978 they purchased an existing hardware store that had been on Chenery Street since 1963 and opened Glen Park Hardware.

"We're a mom and pop operation," says Mr. Tauber, "and our daughter works on weekends. But we're very well stocked to deal with things like plumbing and electrical problems. We also thread pipe, cut glass and mix paint."

Mr. Tauber, a former Social Sciences teacher learned the hardware business through experience. "My wife and I are willing to help where we can but we don't know how to fix everything. In those cases, we refer customers to someone who can help them." They've even been known to occasionally deliver materials after hours to elderly people who can't get to the store.

Glen Park Hardware is located at 685 Chenery Street off Diamond. They are open M 10am-5:30pm, T-F 9:30am-5:30pm and Sat. 9am-5:30pm. You can reach Harold or Suzy at the store by calling 585-5761.

A SPECIAL THANKS...

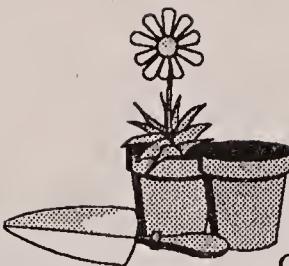
To Bill and Louisa Fossett for donating sofas to the recreation center.



Life begets life.
Energy creates
energy. It is by
spending oneself
that one becomes
rich.
---Sarah Bernhardt
French Actress

APOLOGIES to Sapunar Realty for the misspelling of the company name in last month's newsletter.

President's Garden Awards



There are lots of great gardens this month. Two gardens that I found very attractive for their simplicity were, John and Margaret Cook's garden at 211 Genebern featuring a small dia-

mond of blue lobelia set in a white pebble front yard and, the Stewart's garden at 242 Benton featuring beautiful Australian ferns in a beige painted paving. The Alfaros at 57 Benton have beautiful white figurines set in evergreens, bougainvillea, and most striking, a stairway of pink petunias leading to the front door. The most interesting flower award goes to the Kratsas at 115 Justin for their lovely white trumpet tree. Don't miss it.

2nd New Stop Sign In the Works



Several residents of the Park are concerned with increased traffic and speeding cars. As a result, we will soon see a new stop sign at College and Murray. A 3-way stop is also in the works at Justin and Genebern. Other stop signs are proposed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

SMPIC DUES ARE OVERDUE

There are still 121 or about 43% of households in the Park that have not paid their \$20 annual dues. An individual letter has been delivered to residents who have not yet paid. Please submit your payments, made out to SMPIC, to our treasurer at 410 Justin. Your participation is vital to the continued well-being and upkeep of our neighborhood. It also allows SMPIC to continue to provide community-based activities for all residents of the Park.



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